

THE

THE

RANGE

GRAZING

RIDER

SERVICE

CONSERVATION IS NOT NEW!

- 1728 The soil we passed over this day was very good. Charming valleys bring forth like the land of Egypt. Grass grows as high as a man on horse-back and the rivers roll down their waters to the sea as clear as crystal. Happy will be the people destined for so wholesome a situation, where they may live to the fullness of their days with much content and gaiety of heart. ---Colonel Wm. Byrd III.
- 1777 Since the achievement of our independence he is the greatest patriot who stops the most gullies. ---Patrick Henry.
- 1797 We ruin the lands that are already cleared and either cut down more wood, if we have it, or emigrate into the western country.....A half, a third, or even a fourth of what land we mangle, well-wrought and properly dressed, would produce more than the whole under our system of management; yet such is the force of habit, that we cannot depart from it. ---George Washington.
- 1813 We now plow horizontally following the curvature of the hills and hollows on dead level, however crooked the lines may be. Every furrow thus acts as a reservoir to receive and retain the waters; ...scarcely an ounce of soil is now carried off....In point of beauty nothing can exceed that of the waving lines and rows winding along the face of the hills and valleys. ---Thomas Jefferson.
- 1845 If western land-spoilers knew how eastern land-skinners had skinned their land to death, they would not go on doing just the same thing. But they won't know, and, of course, won't do....This is the land of gullies. ---Solon Robinson.
- 1872 Grass is the forgiveness of Nature--her constant benediction....Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal....Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in place and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. ---Senator John J. Ingalls.
- 1905 The preservation of the food-giving value of the soil as used by civilized man depends on the efficiency of the means by which he keeps the passage of the soil to the sea at a rate no greater than that at which it is restored by the decay in the materials on which it rests. ---Nathaniel Southgate Shaler.

- 1907 To skin and exhaust the land will result in undermining the days of our children. --Theodore Roosevelt.
- 1908 When our soils are gone, we, too, must go unless we find some way to feed on raw rock, or its equivalent....The key lies in due control of the water which falls on each acre....The solution...essentially solves the whole train of problems running from farm to river and from crop production to navigation. --Thomas C. Chamberlin.
- 1911 The grass roots which formerly held the soil together are decayed and gone, and now when loosened by the plow the soil is easily drifted and blown away. --Dr. A. M. Ten Eyck.
- 1920 The instinct that we all feel about good land is sound; perhaps it is a latent feeling that only from good land can a robust stock of men come forth, and one need not go far to verify this....I have seen cattle deteriorate in poor country.... --Arthur J. Mason.
- 1933 In changing our pattern of basic crop production, we have set upon a process which is bound to alter our entire agricultural structure; and I think it may go beyond that and lead in time to a rational resettlement of America. --Rexford Guy Tugwell.
- 1934 Although there is as yet no safely secured beginning, even, in the salvaging of "nature" in the United States--what a chance!The future of the planet itself, and of mankind through distant hundreds of thousands of years, is concretely dependent on the task now being begun. --John Collier.
- 1935 The fabric of human life has been woven on earthen looms. It everywhere smells of the clay....Howsoever high the spirit of man may soar....it is on the stomach that humanity, like an army, ever must advance. --J. H. Bradley.
- 1936 Blown out--baked out--and broke....nothing to stay for....nothing to hope for....Homeless, penniless and bewildered they joined the great army of the highways. --Pare Lorentz.
- 1937 The affairs of the soil may not have the strange magnificence of the outer universe or the curiosity of the inner recesses of the atom; but they touch our daily lives most intimately. So I commend them to your notice and ask your indulgence for the homeliness of my story....
- I propose in this letter to tell you something of the tragic happenings to the soil of the United States. They are not without parallel in other parts of the world, but nowhere else has the drama of soil destruction been played so swiftly and on so great a stage. --Gilbert Wooding Robinson.
- 1938 When a piece of land begins to go dead, unproductive, as ours has, its ills are not separate or simple but infinitely linked. Soil, air, water, and protoplasm are all of a part....Wounded farm land cannot be partitioned off and considered by various specialists with special cures as a problem exclusively agricultural. --Russell Lord.

1939 This land, this red land, is us; and the flood years and the dust years and the drought years are us. We can't start again. The bitterness we sold to the junk man--he got it all right, but we have it still. And when the owner men told us to go, that's us; and when the tractor hit the house, that's us until we're dead. --John Steinbeck.

1940 It is refreshing and encouraging to notice the change of attitude toward national resources that has swept over this country in recent years, and now receives the wholehearted support of its citizens. As America beholds the rest of the world slaughtering itself as nations fight for resources, and bombs, shells, battleships, battalions, torpedoes, and machine guns speak their national need for oil, lands, minerals, waters, and resources, this country at last realizes its heritage. With our frontiers gone, this dramatic realization has brought a determination to protect and conserve those resources so that the United States need not do as other nations are doing....Yesterday destruction was commonplace. Today, few of us would return to the spoilage that prevailed for so many years. Conservation is here to stay. --Harold L. Ickes.

April 26, 1940 Perhaps we need to have scientists, statesmen, and scholars call our attention to the necessity for care of soils, waters, and vegetation. In the final analysis, however, the problem must be reduced to the practical and it is the stockman on the range and the farmer who must see the need for care of resources and who must do the work, rationalize the theories, and make a living at the same time, if results are to be accomplished. There is no group of people more ready or more able to do this than are the livestock men of the western ranges. --Richard H. Rutledge.

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G-29 GETS A VOTE OF THANKS

The fire-fighting training the fellows at the Delta, Utah side camp (G-29) have received was put to good use when they were called to help fight a fire in the town of Delta on March 23. The fine way in which these fellows worked to bring the fire under control was praised by the mayor of Delta and many townspeople. Mr. Orvil F. Jeffery, whose place of business was saved from the fire, writes: "Words fail me in attempting to express our gratitude to these lads for their splendid work in preventing what might easily have been a fire that could have burned half the business district of Delta." Mr. Richard N. Peterson reports that "When the fire broke out in Delta it looked like the north side of the street was done for. There was no fire-fighting equipment within one hundred miles to fight the fire with, which made it look all the more hopeless. The first ones on the job were the CCC boys. They were well-organized and had fire-fighting experience. They fought the fire as if it was their own business instead of someone else's. Their foreman worked right along with them giving them more spirit. This spirit was one big thing which saved Delta from going up in flames."

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BREAKFAST FOR 22!

Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge entertained the "Grazing girls" of the Washington office staff at a breakfast party at Silver Spring, Maryland, on Sunday, April 21. There were delicious waffles, creamed chicken and hot biscuits on the table and much conversation around it. After a great deal of coaxing in good feminine fashion, "the boss" finally consented to read some of his poems about mountain trails, purple valleys, and "home on the range." In addition to the Director and Mrs. Rutledge, there were present Luella Christensen, Jean McManus, Nedra Tolman, Sarah Goodman, Elizabeth McCarthy, Paulino Coleman, Mario Brock, Elsie Hartman, Heleno Burger, Marie Meade, Frances Scramlin, Mildred Klink, Ann Duffy, Irene Nesbitt, Beatrice Chittick, Naomi Johnson, Helen Pollock, Helen White, Amy Hamilton, and Verna Anderes.

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ALL A-BOARD!

If you happen to be in Rio Blanco County, Colorado, and see a street car on the range, don't think your eyesight is failing or that you're witnessing a mirage because what you're probably looking at is another Grazing Service outpost for range improvement in a little different attire.

Enrollees assigned to side camps out of camp G-107, Meeker, Colorado will soon have the unique experience of all the comforts of home a-la-street car. Superintendent S. Q. Horne has initiated a plan of utilizing abandoned street cars to house mobile side camps instead of the customary tents or portable buildings. Purchased at Denver, Colorado, at a fraction of their original cost, some of these cars are already undergoing remodeling and repairs to fit them for use as kitchen and dining car, bunk car, or wash room and storage car.

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Calvin Pierson was recently appointed a notary public for the District of Columbia and reports that his official services as such are available when needed.

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ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Regional Grazier Harold Burback has been invited to address members of the law school and students of political science at the University of Wyoming on April 24. He will speak about the Grazing Service and its hearings procedure. Part of the time will be devoted to open discussion of grazing problems. Harold plans to bring into the discussion three examples of applications for grazing privileges: (1) Mr. A who applied for a number of cattle not in excess of his commensurability and priority; (2) Mr. B who applied for sheep not in excess of his priority but in excess of his commensurate property, as shown on his application; (3) Mr. C who applied for 15,000 head of sheep on lands which had never been used in connection with the Federal range. He will show the course of action taken in each case.

(1) Mr. A, being in proper order, was recommended and approved by the advisory board and a license issued.

(2) Mr. B appeared before the advisory board at a protest hearing and satisfied that board that he had property other than that listed on his original application. The board, therefore, recommended the approval of the number asked for and a license was accordingly issued.

(3) Mr. C: The original recommendation of the board was sustained by both the board and the Grazing Service. The matter was carried to a formal hearing. The hearing officer supported the decision of the Grazing Service. The case was then taken to the Secretary of the Interior.

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CAMP G-127, WHITEHALL, MONTANA, on April 1 had worked 15,339 man-days without a lost-time accident!

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GOOD NEWS

It is good to have Assistant Chief of Range Improvements Charlie Holtman back in the Washington office after an inspection trip in Idaho, Utah, and Colorado, especially since he reports so favorably on general conditions that he found in the field. He says the ranges look fine--much better, in fact, than he has seen them in many years. At Montrose, Colorado, Board Chairman Whinnery (Colorado District No. 6) made it possible for "Chick" to speak to members of the board to encourage further consideration of the range improvement program of the Grazing Service by board members and other stockmen, and to thank them for the splendid cooperation already received along those lines. Increased interest of district graziers in a long-time improvement program was also noted.

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A BOUQUET to Co. 1685, at the Hubbard Ranch camp (G-108, Nevada) for the pamphlet prepared in commemoration of the seventh birthday of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The booklet carried an invitation by Commanding Officer Paul J. O'Connell. "Today is officially Open House in CCC camps throughout the nation", he said, "but really every day is open house for any public citizen that cares to drop in---and after all, why shouldn't you?....Come out and see what returns you are receiving....Under the technical service agency your investment can be measured in money, in huge sums of money, but on the other hand, the benefits it gives these boys cannot be measured by all the money in the world." Back here in Washington we feel that the birthday party at G-108 must have been a huge success!

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Assistant Chief of Range Management Jerry Korr left Washington last week for an inspection trip in Idaho and Oregon. He will assist in the handling of various

range management problems and while in Oregon will attend the annual meeting of the Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers Association at Pendleton on May 15 and 16.

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

Colorado By memorandum of agreement between the town of Fruita, Colorado, and the Grazing Service, the town was permitted to install a temporary pipe line from the Glade Park Well, constructed by the Grazing Service, to its own line feeding the town reservoir. This was an emergency situation as the town's reservoir was so full of ice and snow that water could not be obtained. The agreement provides for the removal of the temporary line as soon as the emergency ceases to exist.

Idaho Stockmen M. R. Breckenridge and H. L. Finch have reported that the newly constructed reservoirs and water holes which Grazing Service CCC camps completed during the past fall and winter are full of water and that the reservoirs which they used are the finest they have ever seen. The only lament that these two stockmen had to offer was that such range improvements were needed thirty years ago. This word of encouragement to the boys who are actually building the reservoirs surely spurs them on to further conquests of the desert. To speed up the construction of more of these water holes another caterpillar and bulldozer was requisitioned last week, this equipment to be paid for out of the 25 percent range improvement fund of Idaho Grazing District No. 2. This will make it possible to step up work on reservoir projects, especially in those areas which cannot be reached from existing CCC camps.

Utah A rodent control program has been set up for the coming season by the Grazing Service and the Biological Survey. For this proposed program it is intended to use 148,733 pounds of bait, including 6,000 pounds of thalium sulphate. Rodents to be controlled include kangaroo rats, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, rock chucks, and jack rabbits. The approximate number of acres to be treated is 867,370. The rodent control program will be started in April and continue until November.